

In the Claims:

1-51. (Canceled)

52. (Previously Presented) A cell phone including radio receiver circuitry, a memory, a data capture system and a radiant-energy digital data transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that alters data captured by the data capture system in accordance with an encoding signal prior to transmission by the data transmission system, wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to generate an encoding signal that depends, at least in part, on information received by the radio receiver circuitry and stored in the memory, wherein data captured by the data capture system is digitally marked with the encoding signal prior to being transmitted by the data transmission system.

53. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 52 in which the data capture system captures audio and includes a microphone.

54. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 52 in which the steganographic encoder is adapted to operate transparently to a user of the cell phone, wherein all of the data captured by the data capture system and transmitted by the cell phone is steganographically encoded.

55. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a cell phone, comprising:  
receiving input information;  
receiving data wirelessly sent from a remote transmitter;  
steganographically encoding the input information to hide a plural-bit auxiliary code therein, the encoding depending, at least in part, on the received data; and  
transmitting the steganographically-encoded information by wireless in a digital format;

wherein the input information is digitally marked with the plural-bit auxiliary code prior to being transmitted.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55 which includes:  
receiving the input information in non-digital form;  
expressing the received information in digital form; and  
encoding the digital form of the input information.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 in which the input information is audio information.

58. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 52 wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to additively combine a digital overlay signal with the data captured by the data capture system.

59. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 58 wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to generate an overlay signal that is dependent both on a plural-bit auxiliary code and on the data captured by the data capture system.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55 wherein the steganographic encoding includes additively combining a digital overlay signal with the input information.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 60 wherein the overlay signal is dependent both on the plural-bit auxiliary code and on the input information.

62. (Previously Presented) A cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that modifies data captured by the data capture system in accordance with an encoding signal, to hide a plural-bit auxiliary code within the data prior to transmission by the data transmission system, the steganographic encoder being adapted to generate an encoding signal that depends - in part - on dynamics of the data,

wherein data captured by the data capture system is digitally marked with the encoding signal prior to being transmitted by the transmission system.

63. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 62 in which the steganographic encoder is adapted to control an amplitude of the encoding signal, in part, in accordance with dynamics of the data.

64. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 62 further comprising wireless receiver circuitry that provides information to a memory, wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to generate an encoding signal that depends, in part, on the information in the memory.

65. (Previously Presented) A cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that hides a plural-bit auxiliary code within data captured by the data capture system prior to transmission by the data transmission system, the steganographic encoder being adapted to introduce a pseudo-random signal to the data in which the hidden plural-bit auxiliary code is encoded, wherein data captured by the data capture system is digitally marked with the plural-bit auxiliary code prior to being transmitted by the transmission system.

66. (Previously Presented) A cell phone including a data capture system and a radiant-energy transmission system, characterized in that the cell phone further includes a steganographic encoder that hides a plural-bit auxiliary code within host data captured by the data capture system prior to transmission by the data transmission system, the host data comprising sample values, and the steganographic encoder being adapted to increase certain of the sample values and decrease others, wherein data captured by the data capture system is digitally marked with the plural-bit auxiliary code prior to being transmitted by the transmission system.

67. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 66 wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to increase certain of the sample values between 7.5% and 100%.

68. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 66 wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to respond to dynamics of the host data in hiding of the plural-bit auxiliary code within the host data.

69. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a cell phone, comprising:  
receiving sampled input information;  
steganographically encoding the input information to hide a plural-bit auxiliary code therein; and  
transmitting the steganographically-encoded information from the cell phone in a digital format;

wherein the steganographically encoding comprises – in a pseudo-random fashion - increasing the values of certain samples and decreasing the values of other samples, the increasing and decreasing depending, in part, on dynamics of the sampled input information, and wherein the input information is digitally marked with the plural-bit auxiliary code prior to being transmitted.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55 that further includes wirelessly communicating an identifier from the cell phone, wherein said plural-bit auxiliary code is at least partially redundant with said identifier, so that at least part of said identifier is sent from the cell phone in two different manners.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55 wherein said plural-bit auxiliary code comprises an identifier uniquely identifying the cell phone, rather than identifying the input information or a user of cell phone.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52 wherein the steganographic encoder is adapted to generate an encoding signal that also depends – in part – on dynamics of the data.

73. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 62 in which the data comprises a series of samples, and the steganographic encoder is adapted to generate an encoding signal that depends on the dynamics of several samples.

74. (Previously Presented) The cell phone of claim 62 in which the steganographic encoder is adapted to generate an encoding signal that is responsive to a first-, second- or higher-order derivative of the data.

75. (Withdrawn) A method of steganography usage in a wireless phone device, comprising:

receiving data wirelessly sent from a remote transmitter;  
generating an encoding signal that depends on said received data wirelessly sent from the remote location;  
altering digital data in accordance with said encoding signal to yield steganographically encoded data; and  
wirelessly transmitting the steganographically-encoded data from the wireless phone device to a remote location.

76. (Withdrawn) A method of steganography usage in a wireless phone device, comprising:

by reference to input digital data and to plural-bit auxiliary data, generating an encoding signal that represents said plural-bit auxiliary data and that depends, in part, on said input digital data;  
altering said input digital data in accordance with said encoding signal to yield steganographically encoded data; and  
wirelessly transmitting the steganographically-encoded data to a remote location.

77. (Withdrawn) A method of steganography usage in a wireless phone device, comprising:

    wirelessly communicating an identifier from said wireless phone device to a remote location; and

    separately, conveying at least a portion of said identifier from said wireless phone device to said remote location through use of steganographic encoding of an information signal transmitted by said wireless phone device;

    wherein said identifier is sent from said wireless phone device in two different manners.

78. (Withdrawn) A method of steganography usage in a wireless phone device, comprising:

    in a first transmission of information from said wireless phone device, steganographically encoding the information with a first encoding signal;

    in a subsequent transmission of information from said wireless phone device, steganographically encoding the information with a second encoding signal different than the first;

    wherein said first and second encoding signals differ by reason of at least one of the following:

        different first and second data wirelessly received by said wireless phone device from a remote location, on which said encoding signals depend; or

        the first encoding signal encodes a first identifier, and the second encoding signal also encodes said first identifier, but represents said first identifier with a different encoding signal than the first encoding signal.

79. (Withdrawn) A method of steganography usage in a wireless phone device, comprising:

    processing an information signal to steganographically encode the information signal with auxiliary data including an identifier;

    modulating a carrier signal with said steganographically encoded information signal; and

transmitting said modulated carrier signal;  
wherein said identifier comprises data uniquely identifying the wireless device,  
rather than identifying the information signal or a user of said wireless phone device.

80. (Withdrawn) A wireless phone device including a data capture system, a radiant-energy digital data transmission system, and radio receiver circuitry, characterized in that the wireless phone device includes processing circuitry and memory, the memory containing programming causing the processing circuitry to perform the following acts:

store data obtained by use of said radio receiver circuitry;  
generate an encoding signal that depends, at least in part, on said stored data; and  
alter a representation of data captured by the data capture system in accordance with said encoding signal to yield a steganographically encoded signal;  
wherein said digital data transmission system includes an input to which said steganographically encoded signal is provided.